

Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 5

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A gravity hinge consisting essentially of:  
an upper cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface, said second terminating surface being oblique to the axis of said upper knuckle across its entire surface;  
a lower cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface  
wherein said first terminating surface of said lower cylindrical knuckle is oblique to the axis of said lower knuckle and is at the same angle across its entire oblique surface as said second surface of said upper knuckle;  
an oblique bushing separating said upper and lower knuckles, said bushing having the same angle as said second terminating surface of said upper knuckle and said first terminating surface of said lower knuckle; and  
a spindle received by at least one of said knuckles and said bushing, wherein said spindle establishes rotating communication between said upper and lower knuckles and allows said upper knuckle to be separated from said bushing;  
wherein said bushing has a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said respective oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other and wherein said bushing and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position.
2. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein said upper cylindrical knuckle is tubular and said spindle extends from said first terminating surface of said lower cylindrical knuckle and is received in said upper tubular knuckle.
3. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 2 wherein said spindle is integral to said lower cylindrical knuckle.

Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 6

4. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 2 wherein said lower cylindrical knuckle has a recess for receiving said spindle.

5. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein said lower cylindrical knuckle is tubular and said spindle extends from said second terminating surface of said upper knuckle and is received in said lower tubular knuckle.

6. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 5 wherein said spindle is integral to said upper cylindrical knuckle.

7. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 5 wherein said upper knuckle is tubular and said spindle traverses the length of said upper knuckle and is received in said lower tubular knuckle.

8. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein said bushing is formed of a polymer.

9. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein said bushing is formed of a core material coated with a material having a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said respective oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other.

10. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein said bushing has at least one cylindrical sleeve that surrounds said spindle.

11. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 10 in which at least one of said cylindrical knuckles possesses an opening sufficient to receive both said spindle and said sleeve.

Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 7

12. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said knuckles is metallic.

13. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said knuckles is ceramic.

14. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said knuckles is formed of a polymer.

15. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 further comprising a mounting flange attached to at least one of said knuckles.

16. (Original) A gravity gate comprising the gravity hinge according to claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A gravity hinge consisting essentially of:  
an upper cylindrical knuckle having a terminating surface that is oblique to the vertical axis of said upper knuckle, said upper cylindrical knuckle terminating surface being oblique to the axis of said upper cylindrical knuckle across its entire surface;  
a lower cylindrical knuckle having a terminating surface that is oblique to the vertical axis of said lower knuckle and at substantially the same angle as said upper knuckle terminating surface;  
a spindle for rotatably engaging said upper knuckle with said lower knuckle and allowing said upper knuckle to be separated from said lower knuckles; and  
an oblique self-lubricating friction reducer surrounding said spindle and physically separating said knuckles wherein said self-lubricating friction reducer and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position.

Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 8

18. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 17 wherein said self-lubricating friction reducer has a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said terminating oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other.

19. (Previously Amended) A gravity hinge according to claim 17 wherein said upper cylindrical knuckle is tubular and said spindle extends from said terminating surface of said lower cylindrical knuckle and is received in said upper tubular knuckle.

20. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 19 wherein said spindle is integral to said lower cylindrical knuckle.

21. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 19 wherein said lower cylindrical knuckle has a recess for receiving said spindle.

22. (Previously Amended) A gravity hinge according to claim 17 wherein said lower cylindrical knuckle is tubular and said spindle extends from said terminating surface of said upper knuckle and is received in said lower tubular knuckle.

23. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 22 wherein said spindle is integral to said upper cylindrical knuckle.

24. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 22 wherein said upper knuckle is tubular and said spindle traverses the length of said upper knuckle and is received in said lower tubular knuckle.

25. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 18 wherein said self-lubricating friction reducer is formed of a polymer.

Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 9

26. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 18 wherein said self-lubricating friction reducer is formed of a core material coated with a material having a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said respective oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other.

27. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 17 wherein said self-lubricating friction reducer has at least one cylindrical sleeve that surrounds said spindle.

28. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 27 in which at least one of said cylindrical knuckles possesses an opening sufficient to receive both said spindle and said sleeve.

29. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 17 wherein at least one of said knuckles is metallic.

30. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 17 wherein at least one of said knuckles is ceramic.

31. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 17 wherein at least one of said knuckles is formed of a polymer.

32. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 17 further comprising a mounting flange attached to at least one of said knuckles.

33. (Currently Amended) A gravity gate consisting essentially of:  
a static structure;

Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 10

a lower cylindrical knuckle attached to said static structure, said lower knuckle having a first terminating surface oblique to the axis of said lower knuckle across its entire surface and an opposing second terminating surface;

an upper cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface, said second terminating surface being oblique to the axis of said upper knuckle across its entire surface;

a spindle for rotatably engaging said upper knuckle with said lower knuckle such that said oblique terminating surfaces of each knuckle are proximate to each other;

a bushing surrounding said spindle and separating said upper and lower knuckles, said bushing having a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said respective oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other, wherein said bushing and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position; and

a frame member attached to said upper knuckle.

34. (Original) A gravity gate according to claim 33 wherein said static structure is a post.

35. (Original) A gravity gate according to claim 34 wherein said static structure is a wall.

36. (Original) A fence comprising the gravity gate of claim 34.

37. (Original) A gravity gate according to claim 33 wherein said bushing is a polymer.

38. (Original) A gravity gate according to claim 37 wherein said bushing has at least one cylindrical sleeve that surrounds said spindle.

Cedrone  
Serial No. 09/780,306  
Filed: 02/09/2001  
Page 11

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39. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 38 in which at least one of said cylindrical knuckles possesses an opening sufficient to receive both said spindle and said sleeve.

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